Amendments to the Claims

1-15. (cancelled)

16. (withdrawn) A method for producing fillable plastic tube body preforms, comprising the step of producing a tube body preform which has a closure region, a lateral surface region and a closed end region; the closure region, lateral surface region and closed end region being configured such that the tube body preform can be heated and biaxially expanded in order to bring the tube body preform to a final shape and size; and the expanded tube body can be cut open at the closed end region of the tube body to form an open end for filling of the tube body; wherein the step of producing a tube body preform includes:

(1) filling at least first and second feeding containers respectively with a first thermoplastic material and a second thermoplastic material;

(2) plasticizing the first and second thermoplastic materials in the respective feeding containers; and

(3) injecting the first and second thermoplastic materials through an annular nozzle and into a mold cavity of an injection mold at a portion of the mold that forms the closure region to form adjacent layers of a tube body preform, the mold cavity corresponding to the shape of the closure region, lateral surface region and closed end region of the tube preform, the nozzle having radially inner and outer concentrically arranged annular nozzle gaps which are arranged in a common plane for effecting simultaneously injection of the first and second materials, the nozzle at the annular gaps contacting the portion of the mold that forms the closure region, and the delivery rate being essentially the same in terms of

direction and magnitude for the first and second materials, with the result that the homogeneity of the first and second materials is maintained after the first and second materials leave the annular nozzle and also within the mold cavity.

17. (currently amended) A method for ~~filling~~ producing plastic tube bodies, comprising the following steps:

(a) heating a tube body preform which has a closure region, a lateral surface region and a closed end region;

(b) biaxially expanding the tube body preform in order to bring the tube body preform to its final shape and size; ~~and~~

(c) cutting ~~open~~ off the closed end region of the tube body to form an open end for filling of the tube body.

18. (previously presented) A method for filling plastic tube bodies according to claim 17, in combination with a method for producing the fillable plastic tube body preform, the method for producing fillable plastic body preform comprising the step of producing a tube body preform which has a closure region, a lateral surface region and a closed end region.

19. (previously presented) A method according to claim 18, wherein the closure region, lateral surface region and closed end region are configured such that the tube body preform can be heated and biaxially expanded in order to bring the tube body preform to a final shape and size; and the expanded tube body can be cut open at the closed end region of the tube body to form an open end for filling of the tube body.

20. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 19, wherein the step of producing a tube body preform includes:

(1) filling at least first and second feeding containers respectively with a first thermoplastic material and a second thermoplastic material;

(2) plasticizing the first and second thermoplastic materials in the respective feeding containers; and

(3) injecting the first and second thermoplastic materials through an annular nozzle and into a mold cavity of an injection mold at a portion of the mold that forms the closure region to form adjacent layers of a tube body preform, the mold cavity corresponding to the shape of the closure region, lateral surface region and closed end region of the tube preform, the nozzle having radially inner and outer concentrically arranged annular nozzle gaps which are arranged in a common plane for effecting simultaneously injection of the first and second materials, the nozzle at the annular gaps contacting the portion of the mold that forms the closure region, and the delivery rate being essentially the same in terms of direction and magnitude for the first and second materials, with the result that the homogeneity of the first and second materials is maintained after the first and second materials leave the annular nozzle and also within the mold cavity.

21. (previously presented) A method according to claim 18, in combination with a step of transporting to a remotely located filler the tube body preform after the tube body preform has been produced, and then at the filler performing steps (a) through (c).

22. (previously presented) A method according to claim 17, in combination with a step of transporting to a remotely located filler the tube body preform after the tube body preform has been produced, and then at the filler performing steps (a) through (c).

23. (previously presented) A method according to claim 17, wherein during step (b) the lateral surface region is biaxially expanded to a wall thickness that is below 50 µm.

24. (previously presented) A method according to claim 17, wherein during step (b) the closure region stays in its original shape.

25. (previously presented) A method according to claim 17, wherein the lateral surface region in its expanded state has a softness enabling a viscous material to be squeezed out of the tube when in use.

26. (previously presented) A method according to claim 17, wherein step (b) includes using compressed air to expand the tube body preform.

27. (previously presented) A method according to claim 17, wherein step (b) includes heating the tube body preform by means of infrared radiation.

28. (previously presented) A method according to claim 17, wherein step (b) includes heating the tube body preform by means of hot air.

29. (previously presented) A method according to claim 17, further comprising a step of printing the biaxially expanded lateral surface region with a desired tube inscription.

30. (previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 17, further comprising the steps of filling the tube body with desired contents via the open end, and closing the open-end by means of welding.

31. (previously presented) A method according to claim 17, wherein the thermoplastic materials are selected to enable the open end to be closed by welding.

32. (new) A method according to claim 17, wherein the biaxially expanding step (b) includes the steps of

(b1) stretch forming the tube body preform in a longitudinal direction and expanding the tube body preform in a transverse direction by means of a pressurized expansion gas; and

(b2) discharging the pressurized expansion gas after expanding the tube body preform in the transverse direction.